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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Rural Electrification Administration

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CENSUS SHOWS INCREASE IN FARMS WITH TELEPHONES

Nearly one-half of U. S. farms have telephones, according to results of the 1954 Census of Agriculture announced by the Bureau of the Census, U. S. Department of Commerce. The 1954 census enumerated a total of 4,782,393 farms - an 11 percent drop from the 1950 census. Of the 1954 total farms, 2,331,709, or 48.8 percent, reported having telephones.

The census figures do not differentiate between modern dial telephones and less efficient types of rural service. Recent Department of Agriculture surveys have indicated that of the farms with telephones only about half have dial service and more than one-fourth still have old-style magneto (hand-crank) service.

The proportion of farms with telephones was 10 percentage points higher in 1954 than in 1950. The number of farm telephones dropped in a few eastern states, where a considerable number of establishments with telephones apparently moved from farm to non-farm classification. However, the percentage of farms with telephones increased in every state.

Tables below and on the following page give more detailed statistics:

Number and Percent of Farms Reporting Telephones, 1920-1954

<u>Year</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent of all farms</u>	<u>Increase (/) or decrease (-) Number</u>
1954	2,331,709	48.8	/274,153
1950	2,057,556	38.2	/191,447
1945	1,866,109	31.8	/339,155
1940	1,526,954	25.0	-612,240
1930	2,139,194	34.0	-359,299
1920	2,498,493	38.7	- - - - -



(over)

Number and Percentage of Farms With Telephones, 1950 and 1954, By States

States	1950			1954		
	Total No. Of Farms April 1950	No. Reporting Telephones	Percent	Total No. Of Farms Nov. 1954	No. Reporting Telephones	Percent
U. S.	5,382,162	2,057,984	38.2	4,782,393	2,331,709	48.8
Ala.	211,512	17,442	8.2	176,956	28,138	15.9
Ariz.	10,412	4,408	42.3	9,321	5,220	56.0
Ark.	182,429	19,201	10.5	145,075	24,360	16.8
Calif.	137,168	78,720	57.4	123,074	94,996	77.2
Colo.	45,578	27,048	59.3	40,749	27,424	67.3
Conn.	15,615	13,081	83.8	12,753	11,882	93.2
Del.	7,448	4,990	67.0	6,297	5,300	84.2
D. C.	28	17	60.7	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Fla.	56,921	10,253	18.0	57,543	20,690	36.0
Ga.	198,191	18,624	9.4	165,524	36,501	22.1
Idaho	40,284	22,264	55.3	38,735	26,133	67.5
Ill.	195,268	127,618	65.4	175,543	129,400	73.7
Ind.	166,627	102,994	61.8	153,593	110,756	72.1
Iowa	203,159	166,380	81.9	192,933	168,414	87.3
Kan.	131,394	89,760	68.3	120,167	89,936	74.8
Ky.	218,476	45,808	21.0	193,487	50,086	25.9
La.	124,181	14,364	11.6	111,127	28,457	25.6
Maine	30,358	19,467	64.1	23,368	16,991	72.7
Md.	36,107	19,457	53.9	32,500	22,137	68.1
Mass.	22,220	17,319	77.9	17,361	15,519	89.4
Mich.	155,589	83,136	53.4	138,922	92,968	66.9
Minn.	179,101	107,359	59.9	165,225	112,896	68.3
Miss.	251,383	16,425	6.5	215,915	29,715	13.8
Mo.	230,045	106,673	46.4	201,614	106,306	52.7
Mont.	35,085	9,995	28.5	33,059	12,784	38.7
Nebr.	107,183	69,541	64.9	100,846	73,132	72.5
Nev.	3,110	1,550	49.8	2,857	1,772	62.0
N. H.	13,391	10,055	75.1	10,411	8,207	78.8
N. J.	24,838	17,829	71.8	22,686	19,967	88.0
New Mex.	23,599	3,500	14.8	21,070	5,700	27.1
N. Y.	124,977	87,767	70.2	105,714	87,643	82.9
N. C.	288,508	23,347	8.1	267,906	45,120	16.8
N. D.	65,401	27,214	41.6	61,939	28,358	45.8
Ohio	199,359	119,721	60.1	177,074	126,868	71.6
Okla.	142,246	45,886	32.3	118,979	53,299	44.8
Ore.	59,827	30,104	50.3	54,442	38,615	70.9
Pa.	146,887	77,211	52.6	128,876	88,674	68.8
R. I.	2,598	1,998	76.9	2,004	1,665	83.1
S. C.	139,364	11,901	8.5	124,203	21,606	17.4
S. D.	66,452	36,855	55.5	62,520	37,394	59.8
Tenn.	231,631	43,541	18.8	203,149	61,544	30.3
Texas	331,567	79,080	23.9	292,946	111,395	38.0
Utah	24,176	12,515	51.8	22,825	17,037	74.6
Vt.	19,043	13,267	69.7	15,981	11,910	74.5
Va.	150,997	35,853	23.7	136,416	45,853	33.6
Wash.	69,820	40,166	57.5	65,175	48,164	73.9
W. Va.	81,434	21,724	26.7	68,583	21,751	31.7
Wis.	168,561	99,821	59.2	153,558	103,139	67.2
Wyo.	12,614	4,735	37.5	11,392	5,887	51.7

